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January 21, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D.C. 20530-0001

Dear Attorney General Ashcroft:

The settlement reached between the Department of Justice and Microsoft is very important. The antitrust legislation brought out by the Department of Justice against Microsoft has presented a potential threat to the free market principles of this country and was to a large extent a waste of taxpayers' money. The settlement is important because it marks the end of it.

I believe that the settlement shows the desire of Microsoft to do their part. Microsoft has made many concessions. Microsoft is required to disclose server protocols to ensure that it cannot make Windows desktop software work better with its server software than with that of competitors. In addition, the company agreed not to retaliate against PC manufacturers or software developers for promoting competing software. Microsoft also agreed to license Windows to computer makers uniformly, rather than offer better pricing only to some. Microsoft has to abstain from engaging in exclusive contracts that would prohibit software developers or PC makers from using competing products.

Providing that the Department of Justice has a mechanism in place to guarantee the implementation of the settlement I believe that it is time this whole deal is wrapped up.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mike Dubov".

Mike Dubov